

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OSLO 03967 01 OF 02 171150Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OFA-01 IO-10

DLOS-04 /086 W

----- 003085

R 170759Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 424

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3967

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT NO

SUBJ: CONSERVATIVES LEAD NON-SOCIALIST TRIUMPH IN NORWEGIAN
MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS; LABOR ALSO DOES
WELL; FAR LEFT COLLAPSES

REFS: (A) OSLO 3905 (B) OSLO 3954

SUMMARY: A SMASHING CONSERVATIVE VICTORY AND AN EVEN
MORE SMASHING DEFEAT FOR THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SV)
WERE THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF NORWAY'S NATIONWIDE
MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 14-15.
THE CONSERVATIVE VICTORY AND SV DEFEAT COMBINED TO OFFSET
A STRONG RESURGENCE OF THE GOVERNING LABOR PARTY AND SET
THE STAGE FOR A SHIFT FROM LABOR-SV TO NON-
SOCIALIST
COALITION LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TWO OR THREE OF 19 PROVINCES AND
IN MANY OF THE 575 MUNICIPALITIES, MOST NOTABLY IN OSLO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OSLO 03967 01 OF 02 171150Z

AND TWO OF NORTH NORWAY'S THREE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS.

TRONDHEIM MAY ALSO GO TO THE NON-SOCIALISTS. NO PROVINCES OR MUNICIPALITIES OF SIGNIFICANCE SWITCHED TO LABOR AND SV. VOTER TURNOUT WAS LOW, ESPECIALLY IN THE CITIES AND NORTH NORWAY, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS TRADITIONALLY SUPPOSED TO HURT THE SOCIALISTS AND WAS BLAMED BY BOTH SV AND LABOR FOR THEIR FAILURE TO DO BETTER. REACTION IS MIXED IN THE GOVERNING LABOR PARTY. NATIONALLY, LABOR'S SHOWING IS VERY ENCOURAGING, BUT THE LOSS OF OSLO AND OF AUTHORITY IN MANY OTHER PLACES IS PAINFUL. IS SV DISINTEGRATES AS A RESULT OF THIS SUBSTANTIAL SETBACK AND ITS OWN INTERNAL DIVISIONS, LABOR WILL BENEFIT. SV'S SOUND THRASHING IS A PLUS FOR US AND NATO INTERESTS. NEITHER THE COMPOSITION OF THE STORTING (PARLIAMENT) NOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE AFFECTED BY THIS MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTION, BUT IT WILL EFFECT PARTY MORALE AND HELP ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSERVATIVES MAKE GAIN: NORWAY'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY

DID EVEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED IN THE NATIONWIDE AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 14-15. IN THEIR BEST ELECTION SINCE THE WAR, CONSERVATIVES GOT OVER 22 PERCENT OF THE VOTE (COMPARED TO 17.4 PERCENT IN 1973 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND 20-21 PERCENT IN RECENT GALLUP POLLS). THEY EQUALLED LABOR IN OSLO, GUARANTEEING A WIDE NON-SOCIALIST MARGIN AND ELECTION OF A CONSERVATIVE MAYOR IN PLACE OF THE LABOR INCUMBENT. STRONG CONSERVATIVE SHOWINGS NEARLY EVERYWHERE GUARANTEED CONTINUED NON-SOCIALIST CITY GOVERNMENTS IN BERGEN, STAVANGER, KRISTIANSAND AND NEARLY EVERY PREVIOUSLY-NON-SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, PLUS CONQUEST OF MANY SOCIALIST STRONGHOLDS, INCLUDING BODO, TROMSO, HORTEN AND PERHAPS EVEN TRONDHEIM, WHICH IS STILL TOO CLOSE TO CALL. THE STRONG CONSERVATIVE SHOWING ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT NON-SOCIALIST PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MAJORITIES IN ONE OR TWO OF THE THREE PROVINCES IN NORTH NORWAY, TRADITIONALLY A STRONG LABOR AND SOCIALIST BASTION, AS WELL AS IN SOR TRONDELAG PROVINCE AROUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OSLO 03967 01 OF 02 171150Z

TRONDHEIM. ALL OTHER PROVINCES REMAINED IN THE SAME CAMP AS BEFORE.

2. MIDDLE PARTIES HOLD THEIR OWN: THE CENTER (AGRARIAN) AND CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTIES CONTRIBUTED TO THE NON-SOCIALIST VICTORY BY HOLDING THEIR OWN SINCE THE 1973 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (A CONSIDERABLE ADVANCE BY THE LATTER PARTY FROM ITS 1971 MUNICIPAL ELECTION SHOWING).

THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY SCORED A NOTABLE VICTORY IN KRISTIANSAND, SURPASSING THE CONSERVATIVES AND EQUALLING LABOR. THE TWO HALVES OF THE FORMER LIBERAL PARTY ALSO DID ABOUT THE SAME AS IN 1973; THEIR SLIPPAGE FROM THE LIBERALS' 1971 MUNICIPAL ELECTION SHOWING WAS EASILY OFFSET BY CONSERVATIVE GAINS.

3. LABOR SHOWING CREDITABLE: LABOR DID MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED, EXCEPT IN OSLO AND, PERHAPS, NORTH NORWAY, BUT ITS GAINS WERE MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SV)'S STUNNING LOSSES. LABOR'S 38.5 PERCENT NATIONWIDE WAS A 3.2 PERCENT IMPROVEMENT FROM THE 1973 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND A 4 PERCENT IMPROVEMENT ON THE MOST RECENT, ENCOURAGING GALLUP POLL. IT WAS 3.4 PERCENT BELOW THE 1971 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, WHICH NO ONE EXPECTED LABOR TO EQUAL. LABOR STRENGTHENED ITS DOMINANCE IN ITS TRADITIONAL PROVINCES IN EAST NORWAY, AFTER LOSING GROUND THERE IN 1973, AND ALSO HELD ITS OWN IN PREDOMINANTLY RURAL AREAS TRADITIONALLY DOMINATED BY ITS OPPONENTS. VOTER TURNOUT WAS LOW AND LABOR STRENGTH WAS GREATLY REDUCED IN THE BIG CITIES (OSLO, BERGEN AND TRONDHEIM) AND IN NORTH NORWAY, FORMERLY LABOR'S STRONGEST AREA. ALTHOUGH PAINED AT ITS THRASHING BY THE CONSERVATIVES IN OSLO, LABOR COMES STRENGTHENED OUT OF THE ELECTIONS AND MENTALLY WELL PREPARED FOR THE EFFORT NEEDED BEFORE THE 1977 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

4. FAR LEFT LOSES: SV WAS THE BIG LOSER, CRUSHED, IT ASSUMES, BY ITS VOTERS STAYING HOME FROM THE POLLS IN PROTEST AGAINST ITS INNER TURMOIL. SV'S VOTE TOTAL WAS CUT IN HALF FROM 1973 AND REDUCED EVEN BELOW WHAT ITS PRE-MERGER COMPONENTS (COMMUNISTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 OSLO 03967 01 OF 02 171150Z

SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY AND INDEPENDENT LISTS) GOT IN THE 1971 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. SV RECEIVED ONLY 5.7 PERCENT OF NATIONWIDE TOTAL AND LOST GROUND IN EVERY PROVINCE BUT ONE AND IN ALMOST EVERY COMMUNITY. SV'S CRUSHING DEFEAT MAY EXACERBATE ITS INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, PERHAPS EVEN CAUSING IT TO DISINTERGRATE. TO AVOID DISINTEGRATION AND ATTEMPT TO CTMA BACK, SV IS LIKELY TO HARRASS LABOR MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVELY IN MONTHS TO COME. SV'S DISASTROUS SHOWING WAS THE MAJOR REASON FOR SHIFTS FROM SOCIALIST TO NON-SOCIALIST MAJORITIES IN TWO, POSSIBLY THREE PROVINCES AND MANY COMMUNITIES, AND LABOR WILL USE THIS AGAINST SV IN FUTURE CAMPAIGNING AND STRUGGLES IN THE TRADE UNIONS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OSLO 03967 02 OF 02 171106Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OFA-01 IO-10

DLOS-04 /086 W

----- 002569

R 170759Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 425

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 3967

5. OTHER EXTREMISTS DECLINE: FAR RIGHT ANDERS LANGE'S PARTY (ALP) WAS ALSO CUT DOWN TO SIZE BY THE VOTERS, GETTING 1.7 PERCENT NATIONWIDE IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, OR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF WHAT IT GOT IN 1973 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ALP RAN LISTS IN RELATIVELY FEW MUNICIPALITIES, BUT LOST ONLY MODERATELY IN MOST OF THOSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE "MAOISTS" OR "MARXIST-LENINISTS" OF THE RED ELECTION ALLIANCE, A FRONT FOR THE WORKERS' COMMUNIST PARTY (AKP), WHICH OPPOSE BOTH US AND SOVIET "IMPERIALISTS", SEEM TO HAVE ABOUT DOUBLED THEIR STRENGTH TO AROUND 1 PERCENT. THEY DID EXPECIALLY WELL IN UNIVERSITY TOWNS, APPARENTLY ELECTING ONE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER EACH IN OSLO, TROMSO AND TRONDHEIM (WHERE THEY MAY HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER), PLUS ONE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLYMAN IN NORTH NORWAY (WHO MAY ALSO HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER).

6. FOLLOWING IS TABULATION OF VOTES BY PARTY COMPARING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OSLO 03967 02 OF 02 171106Z

1971 MUNICIPAL AND 1973 STORTING ELECTIONS WITH CURRENT
PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS:

R

	1971	1973	1975	CHANGE	
PARTY	ELECTION	VOTE	ELECTIONS	1973	FROM
					ELECTION

LABOR	41.9	35.3	38.5	3.2	
CONSERVATIVE	17.9	17.4	22.2	4.8	
CENTER	11.6	11.0	11.3	.3	
CHRISTIAN					
PEOPLE'S	8.7	12.3	12.2	-.1	
LIBERAL	8.4	3.5	3.8	.3	
NEW PEOPLE'S	--	3.4	2.9	-.5	
ANDERS LANGE'S	--	5.0	1.7	-3.3	
SV	6.6	11.2	5.7	-5.5	
OTHERS	4.9	.9	1.6	.7	

7. COMMENT. NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FROM A US
STANDPOINT THAN SV'S ROUTE. THE MAJOR ELECTION VICTORS,
THE CONSERVATIVES, ARE STRONGLY IN SYMPATHY WITH NATO,
THE US AND MOST US FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS. LABOR'S
ADVANCE AT SV'S COST SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE
MANY STRONG, TRADITIONAL FRIENDS OF NATO AND THE US
WITHIN LABOR, PROBABLY CONSTITUTING LABOR'S MAJORITY.
THE ELECTION SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE LAID TO REST IN LARGE
PART THE GHOST OF THE COMMON MARKET REFERENDUM, EXCEPT,
PERHAPS, IN NORTH NORWAY. COMMON MARKET
SUPPORTERS, CONSERVATIVES AND LABOR, WERE THE ELECTION
WINNERS, WHILE OPPONENTS REMAINED STABLE (CENTER AND
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTIES) OR LOST (SV). FALLING FISH
PRICES AND FAILURE TO EXPAND NORWAY'S FISHERY ZONE MAY
HAVE MORE TO DO WITH LABOR'S LOSSES AND STAY-AT-HOMES
UP NORTH THAN COMMON MARKET REFERENDUM MEMORIES.
BYRNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO03967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750322-0193
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750944/aaaabmjc.tel
Line Count: 263
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OSLO 3905, 75 OSLO 3954
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSERVATIVES LEAD NON-SOCIALIST TRIUMPH IN NORWEGIAN MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS; LABOR ALSO DOES
TAGS: PINT, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006